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LakM 683: Lakota Environment Mgmt. and Protection

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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Powertech Uranium Mining in the Black Hills

My concerns

who owns Power tech

Introduction:

Canadian Azarga R Chinese

Powertech Uranium Mining Company proposes to mine uranium in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This is a Canadian company known as Azarga Uranium. In actuality, this company is comprised of shareholders and a Chinese investment fund. This Chinese investment fund is under investigation by Chinese authorities. It doesn't state what they are under investigation for. Powertech proposes to take water out of the ground. The Madison Aquifer. The drainage will eventually leach into the Ogallala Aquifer which reaches down to Texas. There are thousands of wells that draw water from the Ogallala Aquifer through eight states. Nebraska has the most abundant well water available. Should Powertech be allowed to utilize this source of water from the Madison Aquifer. There are many repercussions. Wells are already depleted across several states. More water is being pumped out of the aquifer than being replenished. This hurts the farmers who depend on these wells for their crops and safe drinking water. Cattle operations are vast and many across these eight states. The United States depends on these states to produce the food we eat and export.

A lot of variables

Intervals

Cement caps @ different levels

Uranium Mining:

IF 4.0 earthquake happens

The going rate for uranium is \$30. to \$50.00 per pound. According to a recent article in the Rapid City Journal. Uranium mining has become more profitable since the nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan. There is talk of Powertech using these bore holes already in the ground from past mining near Edgemont, S.D. mining. Powertech will be utilizing current sites already bored into the ground. These were drilled 20, 30 and even 40 years ago. Producing uranium isn't cheap. There are many factors in job costing for these projects. Such as production costs, uranium mining\milling costs, financial & market costs and world production costs. All these

Test Water

factors are considered for a profit. There is money to be made in the Black Hills. There is only one Mother Earth. When she is depleted; Powertech will have their profits and move on to their next project. The nuclear industry has always said they are environmental sensitive. But; that isn't the truth.

Death and Destruction:

There are many direct and indirect social ills associated with uranium mining. Wells in local areas will have their wells drop many feet. Livestock will suffer and radon emissions will affect the surrounding communities. Not to mention chloride, sulfate, radium and iron being present in wastewater ponds. It is bad enough wells contain arsenic already and contribute to the cancer rates. Cancer clusters are a reality. The cost of treating cancer is expensive and does lead to death. Add that to the cost of dying and it becomes more expensive. The benefits to the communities are not what they seem once the in-situ leaching starts. There are many chemicals that will be in the well water, ground and in the air. This project is about making money for the shareholders. The Chinese Investment Fund will get their profits and the surrounding communities will suffer the ill effects. always said they are environmental sensitive. But; that isn't the truth.

Conclusion:

The economic benefits to the state of South Dakota will be minimal compared to the cost of health care and cleaning up the environment. According to The Dakota Rural Action organization; Azarga is requesting an exemption from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act. They have a good argument. Azarga expects to receive this water for free. They plan on using 12.96 million gallons of water per day. Multiply that by 20 years and at some point all water will be

*Exemption of EPA Safe Drinking
WATER ACT - Waiver
waiver*

unfit for drinking in the local wells and possibly the Ogallala Aquifer. That is a lot of water being contaminated and pumped back into the bore holes already there from past mining. And who says Powertech won't supplement their profits margins by allowing other waste from outside companies. It's their permit to do whatever they want. project is expected to last between seven and twenty years. Should there be leaks and contamination to the environment. The runoff will drain into the Cheyenne River and Angostura Reservoir. Angostura is a recreational manmade lake for boating and, swimming and fishing. It was created for irrigation to crop lands and for watering cattle mainly. It is bad enough there is radiation in the water. Letting Powertech\Azarga mine the Black Hills is a catastrophe waiting to happen. And I believe in "Murphy's Law."

✓
Contains Radiation already